

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 NEA-11 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01

H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07

RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04

PRS-01 DRC-01 /184 W

----- 064291

R 152030Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6910

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION NATO

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 PARIS 4200

DEPARTMENT FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR/ENRG, FR

SUBJECT: POST-ENERGY CONFERENCE FRENCH PRESS COMMENT

SUMMARY: POST-ENERGY CONFERENCE COMMENT IN FRENCH PRESS
CONCENTRATES ON CURRENT STATE OF FRENCH-AMERICAN AND INTER-
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EUROPEAN RELATIONS. COMMON UNDERLYING THEME IS THAT U.S.

WANTS TO PREVENT A "EUROPEAN EUROPE". FIGARO ANALYST RAYMOND ARON HARSHLY CRITICIZES KISSINGER. DURING ORTF INTERVIEW, JOBERT REPEATS DEFENSE OF FRENCH POLICY. END SUMMARY.

1. IN FIGARO: RAYMOND ARON WRITES OF EUROPE'S "LOST IDENTITY" AND SUGGESTS JOBERT ACTED MORE GAULLIST THAN DE GAULLE IN WASHINGTON, SHOWING AN "OSTENTATIOUS AGGRESSIVENESS" WHICH GEN. DE GAULLE AND COUVE DE MURVILLE OFTEN SPURNED FOR POLITICAL REASONS. HE WRITES THAT MOST OF THE PROBLEM BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE STEMS FROM EUROPE'S SEARCH FOR A EUROPEAN IDENTITY. ANOTHER POINT OF CONFLICT BETWEEN THE TWO WAS FRANCE'S ARAB POLICY JUST AFTER THE OCTOBER WAR, WHEN SHE WAS CLASSED A 'FRIENDLY NATION' AND OBTAINED AN OUTLET FOR HER EXPORTS IN ARAB NATIONS, THUS PROVIDING MORE CURRENCY TO MEET OIL PRICE HIKES. ARON NOTES THAT KISSINGER CONDEMNED BILATERAL AGREEMENTS IN HIS DECEMBER SPEECH, BUT "FRANCE WAS NEITHER THE FIRST NOR DID SHE HAVE A MONOPOLY" ON BILATERAL ACCORDS. HE COMMENTS THAT MR. KISSINGER, "SO SKILLFUL IN HIS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE RUSSIANS, THE CHINESE OR THE ARABS, MAKES BLUNDER AFTER BLUNDER, WHETHER VOLUNTARY OR NOT, WHEN DEALING WITH THE EUROPEANS, AS THOUGH HIS TALENT BLOSSOMS ONLY IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THOSE WHO ARE LEAST LIKE HIM." TURNING TO THE CONFERENCE, ARON SAYS THAT "THE CRISIS IN WASHINGTON WAS NOT BROUGHT ON BY MR. JOBERT'S TRIPS TO THE MIDDLE EAST OR BY THE PROMISES OR AGREEMENTS HE RETURNED WITH. MR. KISSINGER WAS DETERMINED TO FIGHT AND TO BREAK THE 'EUROPEAN IDENTITY'... (WHICH HE CONSIDERED) INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE." ARON GOES ON TO SAY KISSINGER CONSIDERED THE NINE'S STATEMENT AFTER THE OCTOBER WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST TO BE "INOPPORTUNE, (DESIGNED) TO PLEASE THE ARABS RATHER THAN FACILITATE THE SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT. THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE GAVE HIM THE CHANCE TO 'CALL THE BLUFF' OF EUROPEAN IDENTITY BY REVEALING OR BY PROVOKING THE DIFFERENCE OF OPINION WHICH REMAIN AMONG THE NINE...(BUT) THE DIPLOMATIC TEST OF STRENGTH IS IN DANGER OF MAKING ONE FORGET THE REAL STAKES IN THE CONTROVERSY. THE QUADRUPLING OF OIL PRICES IN SEVERAL MONTHS... CREATES OBVIOUS DANGERS FOR THE WORLD'S ECONOMY... AMONG INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, BETWEEN THOSE COUNTRIES AND THE NEWLY RICH NATIONS, AMONG INDUSTRIALIZED, THE NEWLY RICH AND THE STILL POOR NATIONS OF THE WORLD, A DIALOGUE WILL ONE DAY BE INDISPENSIBLE ALTHOUGH THE ORDER OF SUCCESSION IS OPEN TO DISCUSSION." ARON UNCLASSIFIED

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CONCLUDES: "FRENCH INDEPENDENCE IS AT THE MOMENT MORE THREATENED BY THE PRICE OF OIL THAN BY THE ARROGANCE OF MR. KISSINGER, WHO HAS NO MORE MAGIC RECIPE TO LOWER OIL PRICES THAN DOES MR. JOBERT."

2. ALSO IN LE FIGARO: , ROGER MASSIP SAYS JOBERT'S BEHAVIOR IN WASHINGTON REMINDED HIM OF "THE TIME WHEN MR. COUVE DE MURVILLE WAS IMPLEMENTING... ELYSEE-DICTATED POLICY." THE SAME

15-YEAR OLD ISSUE REMAINS: "WHAT IS TO BE THE NATURE OF
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE? " HE NOTES THAT
FRENCH DIPLOMACY CONSIDERS EUROPEAN INDEPENDENCE AN ABSOLUTE
NECESSITY, JUST AS IS FRENCH INDEPENDENCE. FRENCH DIPLOMACY
"IS ALL THE MORE ENCOURAGED TO ACT IN THIS MANNER IN THAT THE
.../...MORE
IRWIN

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DEPARTMENT FOR T/IEP

AMERICANS, EVIDENTLY DISTURBED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY BOTH ON THE POLITICAL AND THE COMMERCIAL LEVEL, ARE FOREVER TRYING TO BREAK UP ANY ATTEMPT WHICH WOULD GUARANTEE (EUROPE) TOO MUCH FREEDOM OF ACTION ON THE WORLD SCENE. IT IS RATHER CLEAR, TO CITE A RECENT EXAMPLE, THAT HENRY KISSINGER COULD NOT STAND THE IDEA OF EUROPE HAVING AN INDEPENDENT OIL POLICY. DOES THAT MAKE IT UNCLASSIFIED

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NECESSARY TO ADOPT A DELIBERATELY AGGRESSIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE UNITED STATES? IS FRANCE NOT TAKING THE CHANCE OF TORPEDOING EUROPE ON THE PRETEXT OF WANTING IT TO BE 'EUROPEAN'?" MASSIP CONCLUDES BY PREDICTING A PERIOD OF NO PROGRESS IN EUROPEAN UNITY, SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH OCCURRED WHEN DE GAULLE WAS IN POWER."

3. GAULLIST LA NATION QUOTES DE GAULLE AS SAYING IN 1965 THAT "IT IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO JUMP UP AND DOWN LIKE A KID AND SHOUT 'EUROPE, EUROPE, EUROPE' FOR EUROPE TO SUDDENLY EXIST. SOMETHING ELSE IS NECESSARY." THE PAPER NOTES: "IT IS THAT 'SOMETHING ELSE' WHICH MR. JOBERT WAITED FOR IN VAIN IN WASHINGTON FROM OUR PARTNERS, WHO SEEMED TO REPEAT IN UNISON: 'AMERICA, AMERICA, AMERICA.'" LA NATION ALSO COMMENTS THAT "IT IS CERTAIN -- AND MR. KISSINGER, WHO HAS TO HIS CREDIT THE FACT THAT HE IS FRANK, DID NOT HIDE IT -- THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO PREVENT THE CONSTITUTION OF A 'EUROPEAN EUROPE'." ANOTHER ARTICLE IN LA NATION NOTES THAT "TO REFUSE AN AMERICAN EUROPE...IS TO DEFEND THE TRUE INTERESTS OF EUROPE AND OF FRANCE".

4. IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL, COMBAT, AS IN PREVIOUS DAYS, QUESTIONS FRENCH POLICY, COMMENTING: "THE EUROPEAN CRISIS COMES AT A PARTICULARLY DELICATE TIME IN FRANCE'S ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SITUATION...IS THIS THE RIGHT MOMENT TO START QUARRELLING WITH OUR NEIGHBORS?... WE ARE PRACTICING...A POLICY WHICH CONSISTS OF SELLING AT ANY PRICE MERCHANDISE WHICH HAS BEEN DEVALUED BY A WEAKENED FRANC...BUT WE CANNOT RETURN TO THE PAST. WASHINGTON IS OVER. NOW FRANCE MUST FACE UP TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF HER DIPLOMACY."

5. ORTF FIRST NETWORK THURSDAY NIGHT AIRED A INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT WHO BEGAN BY REITERATING HIS CRITICISMS OF THE CONFERENCE. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE IS A TRUE EUROPEAN, HE SAID "I AM DEEPLY EUROPEAN, BUT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THOSE WHO ARE TOO FRAGILE TO CONCEIVE THEIR DREAMS OTHER THAN IN THE AMERICAN SHADOW AND THERE ARE PEOPLE LIKE MYSELF WHO CONSIDER THAT EUROPE SHOULD BE ABLE TO BUILD ITSELF ALL ALONE, TO STAND ON ITS OWN FEET. IF ONE'S DREAMS GO NO FURTHER THAN U.S. PROTECTION, ONE IS NOT REALLY EUROPEAN..." ASKED ABOUT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE U.S., HE SAID "WE HAVE ALWAYS HAD GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AMONG EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, FRANCE IS ONE WHICH USUALLY CLEARLY STATES ITS OPINION AND GENERALLY FOLLOWS IT, THIS

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COMES AS A SURPRISE TO THE AMERICANS WHO ARE NOT USED TO THIS BEHAVIOR; THEY PREFER A MORE FLEXIBLE, A SLIGHTLY MORE HYPOCRITICAL BEHAVIOUR... THIS IS NOT THE WAY WE ACT, AND ONE SHOULD TAKE US AS WE ARE. AFTER OUR CONVERSATIONS I AM CONVINCED THAT MR. KISSINGER ACCEPTS US AFTER ALL AND I ACCEPT WHAT HE DOES IN THE SAME WAY". ASKED IF FRANCE HAS NOTHING TO EXPECT FROM THE U.S., JOBERT SAID: "WE ALL BELONG TO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, THAT IS WE HAVE THE SAME HUMAN, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY CONCEPTION, BUT BEING IN SUCH AN ORGANIZATION CONSISTS IN BEING HEARD, NOT IN FOLLOWING ORDERS WHICH CANNOT THEN BE DISCUSSED. I AM A DEMOCRAT, I AM FOR DISCUSSIONS AND EXCHANGES...WHAT I WISH IS FLEXIBLE AND PROFOUND DIALOGUE WITH THE U.S. THIS IS WHAT I WANT."

IRWIN

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